

Economic Development Commission Meeting Summary

November 7, 2002

Seattle, WA

Introductions and backgrounds of commission members

Welcome comments from Scott Morris

Welcome comments and background information from Martha Choe

See Powerpoint

Overview of the public/private model by Miles Friedman

See Powerpoint

Roundtable discussion of issues:

Suggestions for Commission focus, analysis, and investment:

- Focus on broad issues, as well as specific issues related to CTED.
- Identify the root cause issues related to economic development problems. For example, how can Washington offer incentives to keep businesses in the state.
- Focus on the long-term, rather than being constrained by focusing on the short-term.
- Invest in research to grow the knowledge economy of the 21st century. “Value added” occurs from technology.
- Develop a vision for the state and gain support for realizing that vision.
- Balance immediate needs and development of a future state to keep Washington competitive and remain a great place to live and work.
- Act as a liaison between the government and the public.
- Find ways for businesses to step up for economic development, such as combining workforce dollars, etc.
- Set priorities for the department.

Identified potential barriers:

- An inherent distrust of government by the public in Washington. Will the public trust the Commission with any recommendations?
- A general culture in Washington against tax increases that needs to be changed.
- Inability for economic development to compete for funding with education and other issues.

Process suggestions:

- Ensure legislative support.

- Advocate issues to the Legislature.
- Conduct meetings around the state
- Utilize well-established organizations, such as Resource Conservation Districts.
- Make tough decisions.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) presentation

Expiring tax incentives presentation